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A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2110) to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2110

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Rising dramatically from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado. The portion of the range within and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests also includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

(2) The open space character of this mountain backdrop is an important esthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities, making them attractive locations for homes and businesses.

(3) Rapid population growth in the northern Front Range area of Colorado is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and is also placing increased pressure for development of other lands within and adjacent to that national forest.

(4) Efforts by local governments and other entities have provided important protection for portions of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern Denver metropolitan area. However, some portions of the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their open space qualities.

(5) It is in the national interest for the Federal Government, in collaboration with local communities, to assist in identifying options for increasing the protection of the mountain backdrop in the northern Front Range area of Colorado.

(c) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to identify options that may be available to assist in maintaining the open space characteristics of lands that are part of the mountain backdrop of communities in the northern section of the Front Range area of Colorado.

SEC. 2. COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP STUDY.

(a) **STUDY AND REPORT.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in consultation with the State and local officials and agencies specified in subsection (c), shall review the lands within the study area and, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall report to such officials and to Congress regarding the following:

(1) The present ownership of such lands.

(2) Which undeveloped land may be at risk of development.

(3) Actions that could be taken by the United States, the State of Colorado or a political subdivision of such State, or any other parties to preserve the open and undeveloped character of such lands.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area” means those lands in southern Boulder, northern Jefferson, and northern Gilpin Counties, Colorado, that are situated west of Colorado State Highway 93, south and east of Colorado State Highway 119, and north of Colorado State Highway 46, excluding lands within the city limits of the cities of Boulder or Golden, Colorado, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Study Area” dated April, 2006.

(2) **UNDEVELOPED LAND.**—The term “undeveloped land” means land that—

(A) is located within the study area;

(B) is free or primarily free of structures; and

(C) the development of which is likely to adversely affect the scenic, wildlife, or recreational value of the study area.

(c) **CONSULTATIONS.**—In implementing this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the following:

(1) The Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

(2) Colorado State Forest Service.

(3) Colorado State Conservation Board.

(4) Great Outdoors Colorado.

(5) The Boards of County Commissioners of Boulder, Jefferson, and Gilpin Counties, Colorado.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to take any action that would affect the use of any lands not owned by the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2110 would require the Forest Service to review lands in or adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest and report to the Congress on the present ownership of the lands, which undeveloped lands may be risk of development, and what appropriate actions could be taken to preserve the open and undeveloped character of the lands. This study involves how best to protect the open space between the western Denver metro area and the National Forest from development.

This bill was amended in committee to address issues raised by the Forest Service, and we urge its support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we too encourage adoption of this legislation. I want to commend my good friend and colleague from the State of Colorado, Mr. Mark Udall, for his leadership on this important legislation. Mr. UDALL has been a leader in the effort to protect and preserve open space in Colorado and this legislation will help advance this cause. We would encourage its adoption and thank the majority for their cooperation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 210, the Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study bill.

The bill is intended to help local communities identify ways to protect the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area, especially the region just west of what will soon be the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes much of the land in this backdrop area, but there are other lands as well.

Rising dramatically from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado.

The portion of the range addressed in this bill also includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Its open-space character is an important esthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities, making them attractive locations for homes and businesses.

But rapid population growth in the northern Front Range area of Colorado is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and is also placing increased pressure for development of other lands.

We can see this throughout Colorado and especially along the Front Range.

Homes and shopping centers are spreading up the valleys and along the highways. This development then spreads out along the ridges and mountain tops that make up the backdrop.

The result is potential loss of many of the very qualities that attract new residents.

This bill is designed to help provide a better understanding of what steps might be done to lessen that risk.

Already, local governments and other entities have provided important protection for portions of this mountain backdrop.

The bill acknowledges their good work and aims to assist further efforts along the same lines.

The bill does not interfere with the authority of local authorities regarding land use planning. And it does not infringe on private property rights.

Instead, it will bring the land protection experience of the Forest Service to the table to assist local efforts to protect areas that comprise the backdrop.

Under the bill, the Forest Service will work in collaboration with local communities, the state, nonprofit groups, and other parties.

I think this is in the national interest.

The backdrop both beckoned settlers westward and was a daunting challenge to their progress. Their first exposure to the harshness and humbling majesty of the Rocky Mountain West helped define a region, and the pioneers' independent spirit and respect for nature still lives with us to this day.

We need to work to maintain the mountain backdrop as a cultural and natural heritage for ourselves and generations to come.

This bill is intended to assist in that effort, and I urge its approval.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge adoption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2110, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on the 21 bills just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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HONORING RUFUS JOHNSON

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to speak in recognition of the accomplishments of Rufus Johnson of Kerrville, Texas. Of African American and Cherokee descent, Mr. Johnson was born in Maryland in May of 1911 and faced adversity at a very early age. He lost his mother when he was 4 years old, but he never allowed any situation to dictate his path.

After his mother passed away, Mr. Johnson was sent to live with his aunt and uncle in Pennsylvania. As a boy in Pennsylvania, he was forbidden to swim in the city pool. This cost him the much-coveted Boy Scouts of America Eagle rank because he could not earn the swimming merit badge. Mr. Johnson never forgot this missed opportunity; and, ironically, it was this missed opportunity that led him on his path to historical significance.

Among his many life achievements, Mr. Johnson worked in the White House of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, served in the United States Army during World War II, and became a successful attorney.

Immediately after enrolling at Howard University in Washington, D.C., he joined the Reserve Officers Training Corps, took swimming lessons and became a certified lifeguard.

Mr. Johnson's certification won him a job as the White House pool lifeguard during FDR's Presidency. Having earned the respect and admiration of FDR, Mr. Johnson became his butler as well, a position that often included lifting the President from his chair. Mr. Johnson recalls with great respect the pride and independence of President Roosevelt.

Mr. Johnson earned a place in White House history when a bowl of soup on a tray he was carrying tipped over and spilled on the President's lap. Accord-

ing to Mr. Johnson, it was Roosevelt himself who intentionally, but secretly, tipped the tray and caused the bowl to land on himself during the meeting. Mr. Johnson said FDR continued the conversation without pause and earned the respect of his adversary sitting at the dinner table with him.

When First Lady Roosevelt learned that Mr. Johnson was preparing to take the bar exam, she had a desk set up in the White House to allow him to study for 2 hours every day.

In October of 1942, he was called to active duty as a captain in the 92nd Infantry Division of African American soldiers. Mr. Johnson earned the admiration and respect of all who served with him and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantry Badge, and received a special regimental citation for bravery. He was called to duty and served again during the Korean war, where he attained the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After his service in the military, Mr. Johnson set up a law practice in California and also performed pro bono work. He argued successfully before the California Supreme Court in defense of the first amendment rights of American Indians. He won the decision, and it still stands today.

Mr. Johnson relocated to Kerrville in 1994, where he still resides with his stepdaughter, Yvonne Smith. He turned 95 last May, and the Texas State Legislature and the White House paid tribute to him on his birthday. Tonight, I pay tribute to Rufus Johnson for his years of service to our Nation. He is a respected member of his community, and he has a life story that deserves to be remembered.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLEAVER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today until 6:30 p.m.

Mr. MEEHAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the week of September 25 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for September 25 and 26 on account of official business.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2066. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Federal Acquisition Service, to replace the General Supply Fund and the Information Technology Fund with an Acquisition Services Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5074. An act to amend the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to provide for continued payment of railroad retirement annuities by the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5187. An act to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize additional appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for fiscal year 2007.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 176. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska.

S. 244. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Wyoming.

S. 3525. An act to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the promoting safe and stable families program, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until today, Thursday, September 28, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9634. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Table Grapes From Namibia [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0025] received September 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9635. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Wyoming [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0138] received September 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9636. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Storage, Handling, and Ginning Requirements for Cotton Marketing Assistance Loan Collateral (RIN: 0560-AH48) received September 20, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9637. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program — Tropical Regions (RIN: 0560-AH19) received September 20, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9638. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Endothall; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-0018; FRL-8080-7] received August 14, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9639. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0299; FRL-8093-